

# THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

And Military and Naval Gazette.

VOLUME V.  
1871.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW enters on the fifth year of its existence. When it was first projected fears were entertained for its ultimate success, as two efforts of a similar kind had been made and failed for want of support; but we are happy to say those fears were groundless, and that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW may now be said to be firmly established, thanks to the support it has met with from the hands of the Volunteer Force of the Dominion. It now circulates largely through Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and even the now Province of Manitoba has extended its generous support. Nor is it confined to these Provinces only, but in the Mother Country, and even the United States it has subscribers and supporters. No other journal in the Dominion has so wide and extended a circulation as the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, and therefore it offers unparalleled facilities to general advertisers. Our terms for advertising will be found liberal on application, either personally, or by letter post paid.

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No Volunteer officer can be well posted concerning the condition, movements, and prospects of the Force unless he receives the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

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Full and reliable reports of RIFLE MATCHES, INSPECTIONS, and other matters connected with the Force appear regularly in our Columns.

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## THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS:

All Communications regarding the Militia or Volunteer movement, or for the Editorial Department, should be addressed to the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, Ottawa.

Communications intended for insertion should be written on one side of the paper only.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Correspondents must invariably send us confidentially, their name and address.

All letters must be Post-paid, or they will not be taken out of the Post Office.

Adjutants and Officers of Corps throughout the Provinces are particularly requested to favor us regularly with weekly information concerning the movements and doings of their respective Corps, including the fixtures for drill, marching out, rifle practice &c.

We shall feel obliged to such to forward all information of this kind as early as possible, so that it may reach us in time for publication.

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## The Volunteer Review,

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the law."

OTTAWA, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1871.

CONSTITUTIONAL freedom subjects every public measure to unsparing criticism, and judiciously exercised secures from each the portion best adapted to the social condition and requirements of the people; rejecting what is unsound or impracticable. No great measure has been so thoroughly tried by this crucial test as our present militia law, with the result that in no case has it been found defective. Taking the most extreme and most moderate views of the critics, they all tend to centre on some matter of detail which either has not been elaborated for want of time, is of no importance, or not adapted to present circumstances. On its first appearance a host of emendations were proposed, adapted to suit the views of individuals. When the organization under it was in progress, enthusiastic objectors were loud in condemning its provisions, asserting it would be a failure, and prophesying its utter inutility. Its success, however, shamed most of those into silence, and now, when the camp of instruction have demonstrated the fact that the military spirit is as vigorous

in Canada at the present as at any former period of her history, a knot of projectors and critics start forth to show the people what must or ought to be the proper mode of organizing the Canadian army. It is just possible that all those patriotic gentlemen may have forgotten the nature of the exact problem the Minister of Militia and Defence had to solve; what a difficult task he had undertaken, and how very necessary to his success therein was the support of every right thinking man in the community.

In order that there may be no mistake about this matter it may be as well to state the political problem, which was, "To provide an efficient military force for the least possible outlay in money or time," and this rule was to be applied to the social condition of the freest people in the world—a people amongst whom social distinctions are almost unknown, and to whom compulsion is hateful in word or deed. That the militia law has been admirably adapted to fulfil those conditions its bitterest enemies cannot deny, and it may be as well to remark here that those who most violently opposed it did so from a feeling of personal hostility to Sir G. E. Cartier. The measure was perfect, but the originator, the statesman who conceived and carried out its legal enactment, was not acceptable to a small knot, and therefore this great and valuable measure was naught. But wisdom is justified of her children. The invariable success which has attended the enforcement of the provisions of the militia law has silenced for very shame the detractors of its originator, and now they attack the force it has called into existence, and this also on matters of mere detail, which are sure to be set right as the organization is developed to full proportions.

The military critics, however, are those capable of doing most mischief, and some of those have got the idea that the reiterated assertion of what they term a fact will secure its reception as such by the public. In order to show our readers the diversity of opinion on this subject two editorial articles, one from the *Globe* of the 28th, the other from the *Acadian Recorder* of the 24th July, will be found in this issue. The *Globe's* article is a commentary on another of "Centurion's," which we also republish, and simply meets the cry for the ballot as opposed to our present Volunteer organization, by asserting the well known fact that compulsion under existing circumstances is neither possible or profitable. In their great anxiety to provide Canada with an efficient military organization our army reformers forget one important item, and that is that while in laying down the Prussian system as the *ne plus ultra* of perfection, they divested themselves of all concomitant considerations and failed to remember that Canada does not want to train an army for purposes of aggression; that she has not to repay conquest by plunder; that her people will not be made